

Statement of Martin Sbriglio
before the
Public Health Committee
March 20, 2013
Senate Bill 1064

Sen. Gerratana, Rep. Johnson and members of the committee:

My name is Martin Sbriglio. I am president and chief executive officer of Ryder's Health Systems, Inc., that owns and operates several long-term care facilities in Connecticut. We are not some out-of-state conglomerate—we are a family-owned company that has tried to do the best we can in serving the needs of our patients for over 63 years. I am offering comments today in strong support of Senate Bill 1064, ***An Act Concerning the Administration of Medication in Nursing Homes by Certain Nurse's Aides.***

The legislation will permit a facility to permit a nurse's aide to administer medications to our residents. Right now this function is performed by a licensed nurse. I would point out the nurse's aide will not fill the script—he or she will merely give residents medication that a nurse has already dispensed.

The bill would require any nurse's aide who would have this responsibility to be certified by the department. I believe this will provide any needed safeguards. Overall, this change will permit our licensed nurses to have more time to interact with and provide direct services to our residents.

A licensed prescriber can still require that certain medications would only be administered by a licensed nurse. The bill also does not permit injections by nurse's aides.

I would urge you to support the approach embodied in Senate Bill 1064. If you do so, it will better enable us to concentrate on our core mission of providing consistent, high-quality care to our residents and frail elderly.

Thank you.